



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: February 15, 2008



Notice of Public Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Yankee Substation to
Brookings County Substation 115 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL)**

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: E002/TL-07-1626

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a route permit by Xcel Energy to construct a new HVTL in Lincoln County, Minnesota and Brookings County, South Dakota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Monday, March 3rd, 2008
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 Lincoln County Highway 1, Hendricks, MN
6:30 p.m.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when DOC staff will give a presentation about the permitting process and the proposed project. The public is invited to review the application and proposed route, learn more about the PUC route permitting process and ask questions. The public may propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission line and propose issues to be addressed in the EA. The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until **March 14, 2008**. Comments should be mailed or emailed to:

Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN, 55101-2198
sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to build a second 115 kV HVTL from its existing Yankee Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota to its existing Brookings County Substation in South Dakota (project). The length of the proposed transmission line route is approximately 13 miles, approximately 6.5 miles of which is in Minnesota. The area along the proposed route is rural and dominated by agricultural land use. Nearly the entire proposed route runs parallel to county and township road rights-of-way (see attached map).

PUC Review Process

On January 18, 2008, Xcel Energy filed a route permit application for the proposed project with the PUC. On February 8, 2008, the PUC accepted the route permit application as complete. The DOC is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the proposed transmission line under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720.

The DOC will prepare an EA prior to the PUC's consideration of a specific route for the transmission line. The EA will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments proposing additional routes and issues to be addressed in the EA.

After completion of the EA, an additional public hearing will be held. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the DOC. **Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager, public advisor, or register online at: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Users/user_registration.htm.**

If issued a route permit by the PUC, and in accordance with their authority under state law, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the project, process, and/or to place your name on the project mailing list contact the following:

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Adam Sokolski, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
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Additional contact information includes: toll-free number 1-800-657-3794, fax number: (651) 297-7891, or TTY Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the DOC).

Copies of the application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following websites:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19453>

